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Sand-on-the-beach season opens with Turtle Habitat project

By Penny Schmitt

OAK ISLAND, North Carolina—"Build it and they will come . . ."—More Sea Turtles, that is! On Friday February 10th, the dredge MERIDIAN began to pump sand onto Oak Island, where the Corps' contractor, Bean Stuyvesant, LLC, will build about 9,000 feet of beach and berm to improve nesting habitat for threatened Loggerhead sea turtles, green sea turtles, and endangered Kemps Ridley sea turtles. The project culminates several years of cooperative effort between the Town of Oak Island, the State of North Carolina, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The \$11.3 million project was financed jointly with Federal funding of \$5 million, and the balance contributed by the state and local partners.



Pipe will pump more than 2 million cubic yards of sand onto Oak Island's beaches.

In recent years, Oak Island has been an important nesting beach for the sea turtles. Over the past 20 years, erosion of the island's dune field has eaten

away virtually all the suitable nesting habitat for the turtles. The project will place about 2.6 million cubic yards of sand on

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District Headquarters Space Utilization Plan Update

By Anthony Josey

Wilmington District has been living and working at 69 Darlington Avenue for 13 years—it's time to rethink our living space! The District is in the primary stages of preparing to transition to what will be for many, a more functional utilization plan. Under the 2001 Operations Plan's *Capable Workforce Objective 1.4*, the space utilization planning committee has been busy chiseling away on the new design. Armed with their mission, "To provide a quality work environment to the District employees," the space utilization team began their work. They were given guiding principles from the Commander, which laid the groundwork.

- Look at the cost of doing business, using HQUSACE's move as a model
- Plan different phases based on budgets
- Acquire input and consensus from workforce and union
- Use the Objective Organization Plan as a basis for space allocation
- Consider relationships between similar functional working areas in assigning locations
- When the homework is done, hire an Architect to consult on final details
- Determine cost and what we can afford
- Make the building work for us (create more light and space)

First the space team developed a basic building plan to determine where all of the offices would be located.

Space assignments reflect mission needs. For instance, Public Affairs has high public contact, and will be located near the entrance corridor. The team also decided to stage the transition into two phases: Phase one will complete moves in Quads 2 and 3 in fiscal year 2001 (left side of the building facing Darlington Avenue), and Phase two moves Quads 1 and 4 in fiscal year 2002.



With homework completed and a thorough sense of direction, the next step was to bring the architect on board. CRA Design of Atlanta, Georgia, is finalizing the design of the first Quad, and will complete it by June 2001.

District employees can expect some subtle changes in the new design. New color schemes will denote the departmental areas. The five-foot partitions will remain the standard except where ceiling-to-wall extensions are approved. Overall, the end result will be a friendlier work environment aimed at making increased productivity and quality work a measurable achievement.

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Commander and District Engineer COL. James W. DeLony
Managing Editor and Chief, Public Affairs Penelope Schmitt



Turtle Habitat project continued

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the beach, adding 70 feet of width to the beach. The project will also create a dune berm about 11 feet high. The purpose of the berm is to discourage turtle hatchlings and adults from moving inland from the beach, rather than returning to the sea where they have the best chance to survive and thrive.

The Town of Oak Island has made very important commitments to the project in addition to their major financial contribution. Citizens will contribute to the project by planting suitable vegetation and building walkovers to enhance stability of the dune system. The Town has also instituted a lighting ordinance to help protect the turtles from being attracted in the wrong direction. Because sea turtles and hatchlings instinctively move toward moonlight, which attracts them toward the sea, they can become disoriented by other light sources—like cars and buildings.

The project design and lighting ordinance are intended to keep turtles out of harms way on the Islands' roads. According to Ann Pritchard, who monitors turtles at Oak Island, keeping a single nesting female Loggerhead Sea Turtle safe protects the potential lives of tens of thousands of turtle hatchlings. "It takes a female 20 to 30 years to mature and lay eggs," she said. "They nest every other year. Each female can deposit many nests in a single season, with each nest containing 100 or more eggs. Protecting one endangered or threatened female makes a big, big difference."

Sand for the project is being recycled from maintenance dredging of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Yellow Banks, located across the AIWW from the beach site, has turned from a disposal site into a

borrow source. The dredge MERIDIAN will remove sand from yellow banks and pipe it through a 30-inch pipeline across the waterway to the beach.

The Oak Island Turtle Habitat project is authorized under section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, which provides for environmental enhancements of existing projects. In this case, the project enhances management of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. How? Not only by improving wildlife habitat, but also by creating renewed storage space for dredged material that will be needed for routine maintenance of the Waterway.

Other projects soon to begin

The Oak Island project is the first of several that will add sand to Southeastern North Carolina beaches this year. As part of the Wilmington Harbor Project, contractors will begin placing sand on several beaches in a project authorized under section 933 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976, as amended. The first sand on the beach from this project will be placed on Bald Head Island beginning in late February. Construction on this project will continue until the fall of 2002, placing sand on Holden and Caswell beaches in Brunswick County.

Sand from the Wilmington Harbor Project will be used for the long-standing Shore Protection project at Kure Beach, which will receive the normal cyclical nourishment this year. Using sand dredged to deepen the Cape Fear River Channel means that two projects will benefit from a single construction contract. "It's a two-for-one benefit of the Harbor Project," said Harbor Project Manager

Wayne Bissette. "It cuts the long-term costs of each project."

At Ocean Isle, a new shore protection project is expected to be under way this spring. Bids opened for this project in mid-January, and contract award is anticipated by the end of February.

Project development process requires long-term commitment

In all the projects described above, arriving at the day when sand pumping begins is a major cause for celebration. Why? Because building consensus, reaching the necessary cooperative agreements, and working with state and Federal regulatory agencies to achieve a successful project is a process that takes time and hard work.

"We have all learned that there are no short cuts to a successful project," said Col. James W. DeLony, Wilmington District's Commander. "These communities have invested tremendous effort and commitments of resources and work with their constituencies and representatives. We all have learned that the environmental aspects of all our projects, on the beaches and anywhere, are essential, integral features of our projects."

The timeline to develop a project involves several stages and each stage takes from several months to two years to complete. From the moment a community identifies a need and decides to seek a project, it's likely to take more than seven years to reach construction—and can take longer.

"We want communities to be aware of the project development process, because we know that nothing is going to make us off

Study adds value to Harbor Project

By Christine Bruske



UNC researchers will monitor the swamp ecosystem for changes in soil chemistry, vegetation and wildlife. Here coots swim among Cypress trees in the swampy low lands.

As Wilmington District TEAM members, we are regularly challenged by our commander, Colonel James DeLony, to identify the “value added” aspect of our projects and outreach efforts. In the Spring of 2000, the Corps partnered with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) in a study of the potential effects on the Cape Fear River ecosystem due to deepening Wilmington Harbor. After a year of collecting samples and compiling measurements, researchers are discovering a “value added” data-

base that will fuel environmental research for years to come.

“It’s the perfect working relationship,” said UNCW researcher Dr. Courtney Hackney. “The Corps gets the reliable data they need at a good price and UNCW gets a huge pool of data that can be applied to all kinds of environmental and land use studies.”

The Wilmington District Corps of Engineers set up nine data collection stations along the Cape Fear River to compliment the three previously existing tidal gauges and a baseline monitor at the river’s mouth. The sites include elevation

markers that are tracked by satellite. UNC researchers will use data collected at each station to monitor the tide as it moves up and down the river and spreads laterally across its swampy fringes.

A numeric model developed by the Corps’ Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi predicts the harbor deepening will add another 2 inches to the high tide level along 25 miles of the Cape Fear River. Potential changes to soil chemistry, vegetation, and fish habitat are unknown and will largely depend on the

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Turtle Habitat project continued

(Continued from page 3)

them able to do an end run around any of these stages,” Col. DeLony said. “Once a community or the state have committed to a project,

we will do our absolute best to help with the process. What’s critical to success is that the project sponsors keep an eye on exactly where they stand in the process and on the next

step toward completion. That’s how our sponsors can best help us help them.”

Typical Project Timeline



Study continued

(Continued from page 4)

amount of sea salt, if any, in the tidal surge.

“We have two goals for this study,” said Corps biologist Frank Yelverton. “First we want to test the validity of our model and second we want to monitor the ecosystem. There are a lot of competing interests out there and they’ll all look at the study data from different perspectives. Some groups want more saltwater marsh—ideal for fish and crabs, and some want more freshwater swamp so trees—like cypress and sweet gums—can grow. The important thing is that we learn what is happening with the ecosystem.”

The \$2.5 million study will span 8 years. Only after the project is complete will researchers be able to identify changes to the ecosystem resulting from the harbor project. “We’ll need to evaluate

data collected over time because the natural environment varies from year to year on its own due to weather and moon cycles,” said Yelverton. “One year of data will not be a reliable indicator.”

Dr. Hackney and his graduate students hope to use the data to answer broader environmental questions. Hackney believes that the increase in tidal surge along the Cape Fear River from the harbor deepening will simulate the effects of 15 years of global warming.

“We would probably never get a permit to raise the water level in the swamp for an experiment,” said Hackney. “This is just lucky for us.” Hackney wants to know how a predicated swell in the Atlantic will change the swampy lowlands flanking the river North of Wilmington—information that could lead to better projections of global warming effects on the low-

lying sections of the U.S. coastal plain.

Scientists who study global warming contend that man-made carbon dioxide, methane and other heat-trapping gases will warm the earth’s atmosphere. If temperatures keep rising, the polar ice caps will melt into the sea and the ocean’s waters will expand. The result, as the theory goes, will be a rise in ocean levels of 2 feet over the next century.

Dr. Hackney says that the Wilmington Harbor project is providing a unique opportunity for “unparalleled precision” in ecosystem monitoring and data collection. “The partnership is going to generate invaluable information for land use planners and scientists throughout the world for many years to come.”

Chief meets TEAM members in cyberspace

By Christine Bruske

LTG Flowers wants honest feedback from Corps TEAM member and he's using cyberspace to get it. On February 15th, the Chief met with seven Wilmington District TEAM members, along with TEAM members from Louisville, Memphis, and Philadelphia Districts in an hour-long video teleconference (VTC). District Commanders were not allowed to attend.

When selected TEAM members were notified of their mandatory participation in the teleconference, many were apprehensive not knowing what to expect. "Just the thought of talking with the General and representing the District caused my mind to go blank," said Civil Engineer David Rochelle. "Although I know what I do, I still had to review my job description and reflect on projects I have been involved in."

At the beginning of the conference, LTG Flowers asked most TEAM members one of two questions—"What would you do if you were Chief of Engineers?" or "What is your 30-second sound bite?" Initial responses were a bit nervous and somewhat "canned." However, as the conference progressed LTG Flowers put TEAM members at ease and the discussion became less confined and much more meaningful. "I found General Flowers to be very personable," said Marilyn Knowlton, administrative assistant in the Operations Division. "He seems to have a great sense of humor and he seemed sincere in wanting input from us."

"I never thought that the Chief of Engineers would be interested in the opinions and suggestions of his employees below the level of GS-15 and located outside the beltway," said Biologist Hugh Heine. "LTG Flowers took his own notes. He listened to each employee and his responses were always gracious."

In each of the four districts, one or two TEAM members designated as "Emerging Leaders" were asked to attend the VTC. Additional participants were randomly selected by headquarters. "Topics raised by participants from Wilmington, Louisville, Memphis and Philadelphia were widely varied," said district auditor BJ Suggs. "We discussed everything from environmental policy concerns to restrictions on compensation and retention of professional, experienced staff."

Overall, TEAM members found the VTC to be a positive experience that could greatly benefit the Corps. "I feel that it was a good opportunity for us as



LTG Robert Flowers
Chief, US Army Corps of Engineers

Corps of Engineer employees to voice our opinions and to place some problems on the table at the headquarters level," said Ray Bleam, assistant Master on the Dredge Merritt.

"He [LTC Flowers] made it very clear that he cares about every job in the District and the person behind that job," said Biologist Bill Adams. "I was very impressed by his grasp of the issues and his understanding of our concerns. His philosophy seems to be that if you have a problem, he has a problem, and he will do his best to get it resolved."

Benefits of the VTC went far beyond the obvious. Yes, LTG Flowers got his honest feedback from TEAM members. TEAM members got something too. They learned about the concerns of the people in their own district whose work responsibilities are very different from their own. They got a chance to hear the challenges faced by other districts. Most of all, they gained a sincere respect for the new chief and inspiration to "Just do it!"

MG Anderson visits District, holds Town Hall

By Penny Schmitt

What a sight!: Not just three green-suiters, but three green-suiters doing push-ups! No kidding, MG Phillip Anderson, Commander of South Atlantic Division, started off a Town Hall meeting with Wilmington District TEAM members by saying that he “owed us 20.” As soon as he hit the deck, COL DeLony and MAJ Shepard joined in. Hard to say whether the military athletes or the civilian spectators enjoyed the event more!

As soon as MG Anderson “got the blood flowing,” he went on to conduct an informative Town Hall Meeting for the TEAM, reemphasizing the Chief of Engineers’ command philosophy, and exploring his intentions for South Atlantic Division during his own command.

“You all have your ‘Just Do It!’ cards from the LTG Flowers!” MG Anderson said. “That means you are all empowered.” He pointed out that the whole organization gains energy and loses drag when individuals know they can go ahead and act based on **‘JUST DO IT!’** permissions.

Is it good for my customer?
Is it legal and ethical?
Is it something I’m willing to be accountable for?
JUST DO IT!

Anderson went on to discuss several important features of the South Atlantic Division Campaign Plan. This plan, like our own District Operations Plan, sets measurable objectives for the entire Division.

Training is top of the list in the plan, and also with MG Anderson. He told TEAM members that too often, he has seen civilian training



During the course of the Town Hall, MG Anderson took time to present the coveted South Atlantic Division Commander’s Coin to several Wilmington District TEAM members who exemplify a Just-Do-It! Spirit: Left to right are Danny Kissam, Phil Kadala, Paula Carper, Blair Boyd, Robert Johnson, MG Anderson, Carolyn Brock, Sharon Haggett, David Lekson, Susan Dixon, and Ken Jolly.

taking a back seat to other needs. Implementing Army Training Doctrine—the Mission Essential Task List (METL)—gives clear justification and direction for training needs. The work we are doing to set our METL standards will pay off, because it will ensure that we get the right training for the people who need it.

Other objectives MG Anderson discussed focused on the Regional Business Center (RBC). During his Command, MG Anderson wants to see the RBC move from a great idea to an active reality. Our Campaign Plan Objectives center on developing a clear picture of the way our RBC will contribute through business processes, centers of expertise and talent, and training and

development. We will be developing a workload sharing process that doesn’t just address immediate needs for shared strength, but a plan for the out years that leverages expertise throughout our region.

Finally, the Division’s Campaign plan calls for an issues-oriented communications strategy. Districts sent their communications plans to South Atlantic Division this month. What can our customers expect to see growing out of these plans? --More web-based information becoming available about significant Corps projects, and more opportunities to get feedback to the Corps, as we seek to expand our communications reach and listen to our public.

Safety Sam Makes Big Splash at Boat Shows

By Christine Bruske

Safety Sam is making a big splash at boat shows this year – at least kids think so. With a whisper from parents to a District TEAM member, the remote controlled Safety Sam amazes children as he calls them by name and asks them if they know how to be safe around the water.

“Are you a big fisherman Bobby?” Safety Sam asked an 11-year-old boy at the Greensboro Boat Show. Bobby replied in a serious tone, “When I was young I used to fish,” Safety Sam laughed and told him, “Always mind your mom and dad. Always swim with a buddy and never swim alone. Always wear your life jacket when you’re in a boat.”

When children can repeat the water safety message, Safety Sam swears them in as “Junior Rangers for Safety Patrol” and lets them take a stick-on badge from his smokestack. Children are delighted with the “hand shake” that follows. They put their hands on Safety Sam and he shakes all over.

The Wilmington District purchased the walking, talking tug-boat last September to use in outreach programs and school visits. “Safety Sam has been a great addition to our program. Kids really respond to him,” said Water Safety TEAM leader Paula Carper. “Their eyes light up and they follow him around. They pat him and talk to him like he’s a real person. They listen to what he says about water safety.”

Ranger Mike Large said that Corps TEAM members give out more than 1,000 Water Safety Activity Books at each boat show. “The smaller kids are infatuated with Safety Sam,” said Ranger Large. “With the remote

control, we can send Safety Sam up and down the isles. We talk to the kids through a headset and they take the activity books off the top of Safety Sam. This is great PR for the Corps.”

Teens and adults get a more sobering message about water safety when they try on the Corps’ *Fatal Vision Goggles*. The goggles, which simulate a blood alcohol level of .07 and .17, prove that drinking and boating don’t mix.

“We ask people who put on the goggles to walk a straight yellow line or to pick up keys from the



Two-year-old Jamie Houck of Charlotte, North Carolina “shakes hands” with Safety Sam

floor. Their friends laugh at them because they really have a hard time. They can see how much their vision and balance are impaired by drinking,” said RG Abshur, Assistant Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

Vendors, boat retailers and visitors seem to appreciate the Corps’ participation in the annual boat shows.

“A Surry County teacher came up to me and said how much she liked what the Corps is doing to promote water safety,” said Ranger Daniel Brown. “She said most people don’t realize all the benefits the Corps offers to American citizens.”



Water Safety TEAM Leader Paula Carper talks with a boat show visitor

Daniels retires after a half-century's service

By Fred Lehman

One of the District's few remaining World War II Veteran TEAM members has submitted retirement papers, after more than 50 years total service to our country.

Lou Daniels, Chief Engineer on the Dredge MERRITT, completes his Federal service on March 3, 2001. Chief Daniels, an icon among Wilmington Dredgemen, will start a shoreside job the day after he steps off his ship. After a long and fruitful career at sea spanning more than 50 years, Lou has accepted a position with an industrial seafood processing plant in Portsmouth, Virginia, near his home in Norfolk.

A native of Wanchese, North Carolina, Lou Daniels shipped out in the Wartime Merchant Marine in 1944 at the age of 16. At that time the United States Maritime Service had the highest casualty rate of all our services. Young Lou worked his way up the smoke stack from the positions of fireman / water tender and marine oiler to Acting Third Assistant Engineer, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Sailing aboard Liberty Ships, which were deemed 'expendable' by the War Department, he traveled through Northern Europe and the Mediterranean Seaports and South America. On VJ Day in August, 1945, Lou was transiting the Panama Canal bound for the Philippines. Lou remained in the merchant service until 1948, when he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard.

In the Post-War Coast Guard, Lou started over in lower ranks as a Fireman Apprentice. During his second, 22-year-long seagoing career, he rose to the highest

enlisted rate, Master Chief Petty Officer (Engineman) the equivalent of Sergeant Major in the Army. While serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Lou served on Seagoing Tugs, High Endurance Cutters, Seaplane Tenders and other, smaller vessels, primarily in the Atlantic and North Atlantic, until his retirement in 1972.

In June, 1974, Lou began his third seafaring career as Chief Engineer on the Dredge SCHWEIZER. The SCHWEIZER had at that time recently returned from her tour in Vietnam, and had been transferred here from New Orleans District. Lou also sailed as Chief Engineer on the FRY and the MERRITT, and as Assistant Chief on the Hopper Dredge HYDE, with Jacksonville District.

Lou's service as Chief Engineer of the SCHWEIZER represents a quarter century of Dredgeboating on the largest vessel of her class in the nation. Well known throughout the Corps for his youthful, energetic manner and professional expertise, Lou and his crew kept the old SCHWEIZER running and digging, and he eventually became a legend in the industry. Lou's quiet, courteous, helpful presence is hard to forget—it's a strikingly vivid image of what Chief Engineers are all about.

Lou now looks forward to coming ashore to spend more time with his family, including his loving wife of 48 years, Loretta, his daughter, Sandra Baker, and his granddaughter Ciana.

Lou Daniels—Merchant Seaman, Coast Guard Master Chief,



Lou Daniels in his days as a Master Chief Engineman with the U.S. Coast Guard.



Louie Daniels receives Corps vessel flag from MAJ Shepard at retirement ceremony.

and Chief Engineer of our Wilmington District Vessels—you have done well! We all wish you the very best in your retirement and in your next adventure!

New Faces to the District

Yesha Stokes, Student Office Automation Clerk, Executive Office- Yesha is a student at Shaw University's CAPE Program in Wilmington majoring in Criminal Justice. She plans to pursue a career as a Juvenile Probation Officer.



April Ward, Student Office Automation Clerk, Personnel Department- April is a student at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. She is in the college transfer program and plans to pursue a career as a Computer Analyst.



Emily Gross, Student Trainee Park Ranger, JH Kerr Lake- Emily is a Junior at Virginia Tech majoring in Outdoor Recreation. She plans to pursue a career in the Park Services and shares that the experience at the Corps will help to prepare her for this challenge.



Wilmington District Water Contract helps ice-bound Oklahoma

The children in this picture are sledding home with emergency bottled water supplies provided through the Wilmington District's Advance Contracting Initiative. This time it's not emergency relief from a hurricane or a tornado, but instead, from the icy grip of a sudden winter storm in Oklahoma. Tulsa District implemented the contract when the state called for help. *(Photo courtesy of Tulsa District)*



Speaking Out

- **Wayne Bissette, Chief Project Management** spoke to the Local 1426 of the International Longshoreman's Union on the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project on February 15.
- **Jeffrey B. Whiting, Student Programs Coordinator** in the Personnel Department spoke to the Cape Fear Community College Marine Technology Program on February 6 on employment opportunities for students with the STEP program.
- **Trudy Wilder, Biologist**, in the Environmental Planning Branch, gave a presentation at the Sea Turtle Workshop in New Bern on January 25. The event was by sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the N.C. Division of Fisheries Service, The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, and the N.C. Sea Grant.
- **Rolando Serrano, Project Engineer in the Construction Division**, made a presentation to the Southeastern Section of the NC Professional Waste Water Operator's Association. The topic of discussion was the recently completed Flood Reduction Project at the Clinton, NC Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- **Penny Schmitt, Chief of Public Affairs**, was listed in the February issue of the Department of the Army Publication Post-30, as one of the Army's Outstanding Print Journalists.



- **Coni Brandt, Student Office Automation Clerk**, recently accepted a position with Cape Fear Community College. **Coni** has been with the Wilmington District for almost six years. We wish her much success in all of her future endeavors.
- **Congratulations to Bob Snipes** who was selected as the new Chief of Geo-technical Section.
- **Congratulations to Rolando and Susan Serrano** on the birth of their baby boy, **Ramon Emanuel Serrano**. **Ramon** was born at 6:05 am January 26.
- **Hats off to Louie Daniels**. Louie will celebrate his retirement with a dual celebration beginning in the main conference room on Tuesday February 27 at 10:30am. The celebration will continue with a luncheon at Hooter's at 11:30am.
- **Jason Linder**, son of **Linda Linder** was recently hired by the Kinston Police Department fulfilling a life long dream. He is an East Carolina University Graduate.
- **Jonathan Rochelle**, son of **David Rochelle** was presented with the Boy Scout Eagle Award on November 24th. The award came as a result of his affiliation with Troop 225 (now Troop 234 Scott's Hill Baptist Church).

RETIREE NEWS



By Bob Swart

Twelve retirees and their spouses turned out for this month's luncheon. It looks like the first day of the month falling on the meeting day might have caught some folks off guard!

The following were present: Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Doris and Ken Old, Buddy and Kay Johnson, Dorothy Everett, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Eric Matzke, John B. Hill, and Barbara Jordan. It is certainly great that Barbara made the meeting. Keep it going, Lady!

It was noted that Joe and Henry

were absent. Of course this could be expected at this time of year with all the banks getting out the info on last year's earnings. I guess some folks have to stay close to the mailbox to make sure the significant data will not get misplaced! On the other hand, some of us weren't present because of the need to get a little doctor's attention. This writer had to have a stress test to check out some persistent chest pains. The test turned out in my favor—there does not appear to be any heart circulation problems. However later this month I will have some surgery. This is coming on top of trying to make a transition to a new church field during this month. I will probably be working at the Potts Memorial Church at Penderlea, North Carolina.

Dorothy Everett stated this Thursday that she had a double mission—to attend the luncheon and pick up her grandson. You

know how the Grandmothers are about their other babies. I certainly want to thank Eric Matzke for getting the information for me. This had to be a special effort for him since he and Betty were leaving on Friday for a week in Cancun, Mexico. They will be meeting with some of Eric's classmates (Class of '47). And I thought I was getting old!

It's a great pleasure to pass the following on to readers. At the worship service on January 21st, Max Grimes was honored with a plaque and a standing ovation by the congregation of Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in appreciation of his tireless leadership in overseeing the construction of a gathering hall building. Our congratulations go out to him. It is obvious that Max has other talents that extend beyond eating!

We would still like to hear from all you retirees out there. Come see us sometime!

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